

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

The specification has been amended to eliminate some minor obvious errors. No new matter whatsoever has been added.

The Office Action of March 2006 appears to be incomplete. Page 5 ends in the middle of a sentence, and page 6 starts at the beginning of a new paragraph.

The objection to the recitation of an "axis of symmetry" has been dealt with by deleting the language relating to "symmetry" from the Substitute Specification. There is, however, support in the original application text for an "axis" in that the original text stated:

Advantageously, the member 2 is formed from three discs 7, 8 and 9 having a decreasing diameter from disc 7 to disc 9 and which are arranged coaxially to each other and forming a single body.

Accordingly the Substitute Specification has been amended to recite this axis, but not to say that it is an axis of symmetry or to discuss it in any more detail than could clearly be construed from FIGS. 4 and 5 of the drawing, which itself forms part of the

original disclosure. The reference to "symmetry" and the "vertical" with reference to this axis has also been deleted from main claim 10. This therefore clears the new-matter rejection.

The subject matter of claims 11 and 12 has been inserted into claim 10 to define the invention with greater particularity over the art.

The primary reference, US 6,675,446 of Buettell, cited against this case has a disk-shaped body 24 with a cover 12 that together form a pair of converging slots. The cover 12 and body 24 together grip portions of the same cord 13. There is nothing resembling the three-disk body of this invention that has the substantial advantage that the converging holes are more widely spaced in the bigger top disk and more closely in the little bottom disk, so that the strengths of the disks are optimally used to prevent breakage at the holes. Clearly this reference alone is relatively far from the invention.

In the secondary reference, US 6,109,490 of Caluori, nothing more is shown than a cord comprised of two different pieces. Otherwise this patent lacks the three-disk body with two converging holes that tightly grip the cords, and virtually everything else of the instant invention. There is no slidable member, so that in fact this reference is irrelevant to the present invention as now claimed.

Nothing in either of the two references proposes a three-disk body as claimed with, as mentioned above, the structural advantages whereby the top disk can have two relatively widely spaced holes while the bottom disk has two closely spaced ones. The three-disk body with converging holes cannot be dismissed as mere design because these shapes work together. For a proper rejection, a reference showing or suggesting such a structure needs to be found. Lacking that, the §103 rejection must fall.

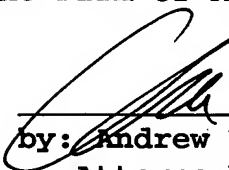
In the third seemingly cited reference, US 3,742,730 of Powell, little more is shown than a bead structure with multiple strands woven through crossing or the same holes in different beads. It is hard to see the relevance of this reference to the instant invention, especially as the Action appears to be missing any real discussion of it.

Thus all the claims in the case are allowable. Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this

case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: None.